

From video games to doing work for NASA



Kanye West wants to intern at fashion house



Fatal car accident claims two lives

COLLISION Two people were killed in a car accident on Highway 103 yesterday.

The two-vehicle crash happened just after 5 p.m. between exits 5 and 6.

RCMP were at the scene last night as paramedics and firefighters tended to the other people who were injured in the crash. As of press time, two people were reported killed.

RCMP said the highway would be closed late into the night so collision analysts could examine the scene. There was no word on what happened and RCMP said they would not be releasing the names of the people who died at this time.

METRO HALIFAX

Shooting lands man in hospital

CRIME A 22-year-old man was shot yesterday.

He was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after an incident on Downey Road in North Preston.

It happened at around 3 p.m., and he was taken to the Dartmouth General Hospital at 4:40 p.m. RCMP are investigating, although they say the victim is not co-operating with the investigation.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports pg 9



Herd getting needed break

Canada pg 4

Three N.B. soldiers killed

Art Gallery Gingerbread fun



Olivia Blanchart, 5, works on her gingerbread house at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia yesterday. Between 400 and 500 people were expected to attend the annual Gingerbread Sunday event.

Parking crackdown

Fines coming in bid to aid snow removal

PAUL MCLEOD
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It's crackdown time on Halifax streets.

Cars parked on the road overnight will soon become a thing of the past, and street parties may soon become more scarce as well.

HRM's winter parking ban takes effect today. Drivers are banned from parking on the road between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Those caught could see a fine of \$25, or \$50 if they obstruct a snowplow. Their vehicle could also be towed.

The ban, which lasts un-

"These parking spots are at a premium. It might take up to six months or a year to get a parking spot." Coun. Dawn Sloane

til March 30, is intended to allow for quicker snow removal.

But many complain the ban should only take effect during an actual snowstorm.

Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane has been critical of the rules.

She says it forces residents to scramble for rare and expensive parking spots.

"These parking spots are at a premium. It might take up to six months or a

year to get a parking spot, and it costs up to \$500," she said.

Sloane wants to see a similar system to St. John's, N.L., where cars park on one side of the street while the other end is cleared, then switch sides the next night.

Meanwhile, another councillor is looking to get police involved in approving street parties.

Northwest Arm — South End Coun. Sue Uteck said several times this fall, uni-

versity students applied and were approved to close off a street for community parties.

She said those events turned into drunken block parties.

Uteck, at the request of the police force, will propose that police should have to sign off on any proposals.

Currently, street closures are cleared through HRM.

"The parties got out of control rapidly — alcohol in the street," said Uteck. "All I'm asking for is any time we give a street-closure permit that it's reviewed by police to say, 'Yeah, we'll agree to this closure or not.'"

Food safety stressed by province

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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HOLIDAY COOKING Before the potluck leaves you heaving over the pot, the Department of Agriculture has some food-safety tips for you.

With holiday parties looming, food-borne illnesses are a threat. To prevent them, the province is asking Nova Scotians to remember a few things: clean, separate, cook and chill.

"Whether you are (a) ... chef or a novice in the kitchen, you need to be aware of safety issues when storing, handling and preparing food."

Mike Horwich, Director of food protection, said: "If you remember this bit of advice: Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold, and when in doubt, throw it out, it will help ward off food-borne illness."

How to prepare and keep eggnog, how to travel with food, and the best ways to keep and reheat leftovers are on the department's food-safety website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/food-safety/factsht.

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Dal gets funding for tiny ultrasound development

Dalhousie University is developing an ultrasound device so small it could travel through the eardrum. They recently received funding — more than \$300,000 — to develop the two-millimetre in diameter device.

METRO HALIFAX

3

Local

**Turn on the Tap campaign**

A coalition of Nova Scotia organizations is lobbying school boards and municipalities to stop the sale of bottled water. The campaign to Turn on the Tap and Ditch the Bottle is sending out information packages to show how bottled water is “un-green.”

METRO HALIFAX

Guilty teen under house arrest till March

Judge postpones sentencing of torture ringleader until psychological assessment made

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Halifax



The ringleader of a group of Dartmouth teenagers who tortured a 14-year-old girl last June has been released from jail for the holidays.

At Friday's hearing, Judge Pam Williams postponed sentencing the 16-year-old until March, say-

ing she wanted a full psychological assessment before making a decision.

Williams rejected the joint recommendation from the Crown and defence for six months house arrest, one-year probation and the promise to get counselling.

She'll get “plunked on the waiting list,” Williams said, estimating a 12- to 18-month wait for help. “In

the system, I know we'll get a report.”

In November, the teen pleaded guilty to unlawful confinement and aggravated assault. On June 14, she led four others — a girl, 14, two boys, 17, and Brandon Weare, 18 — in an attack that lasted almost four hours. They barricaded the victim in a house, repeatedly threw her down a stairwell, beat her with a

“My decision will depend a lot on what happens between now and March.”

Judge Pam Williams

mop and burned her with cigarettes. After pouring cold water and cleaning fluid on her, they locked

her in a freezer and sat on the lid, smoking cigarettes while the girl screamed and banged for 15 to 30 minutes.

“She started it,” Williams said of the defendant, “kept pushing it.”

The teen is now under house arrest, in the custody of her mother and grandparents, until her new sentencing hearing in March. She already served

122 days in the Waterville youth jail.

She was given bail in June, but jailed in August for violations.

“My decision will depend a lot on what happens between now and March,” Williams told the red-eyed teen.

“You've been here before, and you haven't been successful ... (but) there's always hope.”

Lock up, say police

Are your doors locked at night?

Police are warning people to lock their doors and windows before they head off to bed.

Last week, a woman living on Waterloo Street woke up at 4:30 a.m. and noticed the patio door to her bedroom was open and a man was standing there.

She ran into a roommate's room and the man took off.

This fall, there were several incidents of women in the south end waking up to find a man in their room watching them sleep. The intruder left quickly, not stealing anything, when the women woke up.

Police say they don't know if these incidents are connected but warned everyone to lock up, no matter where they live.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Cold snap a boost for icewine maker

A fresh batch of icewine will soon be fermenting at Jost Vineyards, thanks to a short-lived cold snap last week.

Last Monday, about 14-tonnes of vine-frozen Ortega grapes were harvested at Warner Vineyards in the Annapolis Valley. They'll be used in the Jost production of icewine at the Malagash winery.

“The timing couldn't have been better,” said winery owner Hans Christian Jost.

“From what I understand the quantity and flavours are right on target.”

The Ortega grape juice has already begun the fermentation process to produce about 2,400 litres of icewine.

“If we could have it fermented before Christmas, that would be our goal,” said Jost.

Two types of icewine will be made from this harvest,

Ortega and Whiskey Barrel Aged Ortega, produced by aging the wine in whiskey barrels originating from the Glenora Distillery in Cape Breton.

John Warner, owner of the Lakeville-based vineyard where the grapes were grown, said this icewine harvest was unique because it was done during the afternoon and evening instead of through the night.

Normally, a harvest wouldn't be done during the day because of the risk the sun would warm and thaw the grapes, but overcast skies and a cold wind dropped a temperature of -10 C to about -17 C with the wind chill.

“It was just an ideal day to go out and pick it,” Warner said. “The advantage of the wind is it cools all the grapes down very quickly. If it was calm they may not have reached that temperature.”

Jost said the new batch of Ortega icewine will be on the market mid-summer 2009.

SHERRY MARTELL

/TRURO DAILY NEWS

Qualifier Dreams of Crashed Ice



Olivier Sweeney from Quebec hurdles an obstacle at the Metro Centre on Friday night as he competes for a spot in the Red Bull Crashed Ice final. Halifax is one of 11 Canadian cities hosting a qualifier for January's Crashed Ice final in Quebec City, an event which is billed as a combination of hockey, downhill skiing and boardercross.

News in brief

SEARCH A sock was discovered in the search for a missing accident victim in Wilmot, Annapolis Valley this weekend. Search and rescue volunteers as well as firefighters resumed their search for Elizabeth Morrisette on the weekend. She's been missing since a car accident Dec. 7. A sock belonging to Morrisette was discovered on the bank of the Annapolis River.

CAPE BRETON Two police investigators will be hired to work in an expanded satellite

Cape Breton office. They are part of the province's crime strategy called Time to Fight Crime Together. They'll work with five other investigators based in Halifax.

FRAUD Wolfville RCMP arrested a woman for pretending to canvass money for the Parkinson's Society. Donna Darlene England, 47, is charged with 10 counts of fraud after she allegedly altered cheques to herself. She was never associated with the Parkinson's Society.

ARREST A 46-year-old man was arrested for impaired driving on Saturday morning, after a car hit a power pole at Kearney Lake and Hammonds Plains roads.

HANDGUN Police found a loaded handgun during a traffic stop on Lacewood Drive on Thursday night. A Pontiac Grand Am was stopped in a parking lot on Lacewood Drive at around 10 p.m. A 22-year-old Timberlea man was arrested.

METRO HALIFAX

Man faces 3 attempted murder counts

COURT An 18-year-old appeared in court Friday charged with a shooting outside the IWK Hospital and two other attempted murders.

Aaron Gregory Marriott faces three counts of attempted murder and numerous weapons charges after firing shots at Jason Hallett, 27.

Police allege it was the third time Marriott had shot at Hallett. In a previous incident Marriott reportedly shot through a window of a home, wounding Hallett.

The shootings are believed to be part of an alleged drug war between the Marriott and Melvin families. Hallett is an associate of the Melvins.

Marriott will enter a plea this Friday at Halifax Provincial Court.

METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video George W. Bush's artful dodge of shoes hurled at him by an Iraqi at metronews.ca/world

Video Canadians struggle with a quiz on the basics of our political system at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 12

Lotto Super 7: 1, 13, 23, 27, 34, 36 & 37. Bonus 39

Saturday, Dec. 13

Lotto 6/49: 4, 15, 34, 36, 43 & 47 Bonus 9 These results are not official.

Vancouver police have identified the victim of Friday night's shooting at a company Christmas party as Benjamin Banky, 40, the CEO of TallGrass Distributors Ltd. Police say Banky was killed after a former employee walked into the party and opened fire at approximately 4 p.m. PT. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Tories widen lead

The federal Conservatives led by Stephen Harper, left, would win a strong majority in Parliament if elections were held today, according to a poll showing the new leader of the Opposition Liberals has done little to boost public support. Canadians favour the Conservatives over the Liberals by 45 per cent to 26 per cent, an Ipsos Reid poll showed. The NDP had the backing of 12 per cent.

REUTERS

Families, country mourn heroes

Two Nova Scotians among latest casualties of war in Afghanistan

With a nephew killed in Afghanistan and a son headed for the same war zone, a grieving and frustrated Russell Higgins says Canadian soldiers are being wasted on a foolish mission.

Reached at his home yesterday in Upper Musquodoboit, Higgins said, "I don't figure our boys should be over there to start with. It's a fight that can't be won. They have been doing the same thing over there since the Crusades. You can't win a war against people that don't mind dying."

Higgins' nephew Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton, 26, was one of three Canadian soldiers killed Saturday in a roadside bomb. Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin of Mount Uniacke and Pte. Justin Peter Jones, 21, of Baie Verte, N.L. also died.

The deaths came just eight days after Cpl. Mark McLaren, Warrant Officer Robert Wilson and Pte. Demetrios Diplaros died when their armoured vehi-



Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin



Pte. Justin Jones



Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton

cle struck an improvised explosive device on the same stretch of highway west of Kandahar city. Canada's death toll from the Afghanistan mission now stands at 103 soldiers and one diplomat. "My son is getting ready

to go over," Higgins said of his 26-year-old son Peter. "What can be said? You can only do what you can do." A Canadian Forces spokesperson said it is not the department's policy to publicly respond to comments made by a grieving family member such as Higgins, but added, "We provide as much support to the families, to ensure that we can do whatever is in our pow-

er to assist them." In a statement, Hamilton's mother Cindy Higgins said that her son enjoyed fishing, camping and golfing and was "a professional soldier, who strongly believed in the mission and volunteered for his third tour in Afghanistan."

All three victims were based at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VIDEO First priority for military is taking care of victims' families at metronews.ca/canada

Investigate alleged abuse of Afghan boys, lawyer urges

MILITARY The International Criminal Court should launch its own investigation into allegations some Canadian officers serving in Afghanistan told subordinates to look the other way when Afghan soldiers and local interpreters sodomized young boys, says one of Canada's leading human-rights lawyers. University of British Columbia international law and politics expert Michael By-

ers, who was among of a group of academics who sought to have former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet detained as a war criminal, said he plans to ask the ICC to begin its own inquiry into the charges.

In a story published yesterday by a Toronto newspaper, former Canadian soldier Tyrel Braaten said during his tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2006, he witnessed Afghan interpreters bringing young boys inside buildings at Forward Operating Base Wilson, a remote Canadian base outside Kandahar. The boys were then sodomized by the interpreters and Afghan soldiers, Braaten said.

Other Canadian soldiers have complained to chaplains and Canadian military medical personnel that Canadian officers told them not to get involved because the sodomy was tantamount to "cultural differences." If the allegations are true, Byers said they will reflect more poorly on the Canadian military than the scandal in the 1993 in Somalia when Canadian soldiers tortured and murdered a Somali teenager who snuck into a Canadian base.

Chalk River ups production of medical isotopes

HEALTH Health Canada has warned the medical community of a global shortfall in the supply of medical isotopes, and Ontario's Chalk River facility has ramped up production to help alleviate the problem. The Chalk River nuclear reactor is producing 35 to 40 per cent more isotopes than usual to compensate. "We're not only producing for North America, we're producing for global demand," said Dale Coffin, of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. Medical isotopes are radioactive material that can be used to scan the body for tumours and other illnesses, or to treat cancer through radiation therapy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vancouver Rare snow



A statue is covered after an overnight snow fall in Vancouver yesterday. Famous for its winter rain, the city had about 10 centimetres of snow left on the ground.

ANDY CLARK/REUTERS





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News in brief

OLYMPICS Gregor Robertson, Vancouver's new mayor, has appointed an external auditor to review the financial arrangements between the City of Vancouver and the developers of the Olympic Village. KPMG has been asked to examine the decision by the previous council to give a \$100-million loan guarantee to Millennium Development.

ALBERTA Calgary-Mountain View MLA David Swann has appointed leader of the Alberta Liberal party. The Grits haven't formed the government in that province since they won the provincial election of 1917.

QUEBEC A law requiring Quebec drivers to have winter tires installed on their cars takes effect today. The law, the first of its kind in the country, is creating tire shortages in other regions and is proving to be a boon to self-storage companies as drivers try to find places to store their all-season tires. Ignoring the law can result in a \$300 fine.

COMMISSION Former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci is set to move on a streamlined process to choose the new head of the \$60-million truth commission into abuse at native residential schools, CBC News Online reports. Sources say the commission should be on track by next month.

METRO CANADA

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Coalition of thoughts

HineSight

Anne Hines



This morning, my friend Rob called. Our conversation went something like this:

Rob: Hi, am I interrupting anything?

Me: I'm writing.

Rob: Good, I thought you might be busy. Something alarming's happened.

This could mean either No. 1, beer's gone up a cent a bottle, or No. 2, Rob's started dating again.

Rob: I'm worried about what's happening with our government.

It's No. 2. My friend Rob is a dear, sweet, clueless man who feels the way to a woman's heart is to agree with everything she says. Works for me.

Me: What happened to

the vegan you were seeing?

Rob: She complained about the restaurant I'd picked so I suggested we just go forage for nuts and berries in the park.

Me: Where did you want to take her?

Rob: The Keg. They've got lettuce. I think. Anyway, I went out with this woman who says if this coalition government takes over, it's going to be very bad for kids.

Me: Because third graders will have to learn to spell Ignatieff?

Rob: Plus, it will show that the government of this country can

be re-

placed at any time. You know what that's called?

Me: I'll go out on a limb here ... democracy?

Rob: No, no, chaos.

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

Rob: So she says what we have to do is invade Quebec.

I pause. I figure there are two possible responses. No. 1, "You had fewer nuts with the vegan," or No. 2, "Uh ... what?" I opt for No. 2.

Rob: We must attack. Shut down Quebec's ability to have a say in government.

Me: This is about you wanting to wear your Halloween combat cos-

tume again, isn't it?

Rob: No. Not entirely.

Me: So, she wants to protect Canada by denying rights to Canadians? There's a word for that.

Rob: Decisive?

Me: OK ... or maybe, "insane."

Rob: She says if we don't deal with Quebec, other groups may start thinking they can hang onto their language and traditions. Canada could become multicultural.

Me: It is.

Rob: Oh ... right.

Me: Sweetie, get some information and think this through for yourself. You can still wear the costume. But maybe just around the house. Any other dates lined up?

Rob: Tonight I'm going to a séance with a woman who thinks spirits should be allowed to vote.

Tomorrow, I'm just not answering the phone.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



Views

I'm fortunate to call Halifax home

UrbanScrawl

Christina Biluk

theurbanscrawl@gmail.com

The recent events in India got me thinking about how lucky we are to live in Halifax. While we don't have bustling subways and streets and high-rise towers, we do have a lot of things that are often taken for granted.

Safety. In Halifax, we have a police force that comes when we call it. In other places around the world, hefty premiums must be paid for these serv-

ices. We are fortunate to not live in an environment plagued by terrorist attacks, war and large-scale crime. In our city, Iranians can be friends with Iraqis and Israelis with Palestinians. We can all live side by side harmoniously.

Freedom. It's hard to imagine what it would be like without freedom, but ask someone who has immigrated to Canada and the picture becomes very clear. Floria Aghdamimehr is an Iranian immigrant living and working in Halifax. As a Baha'i from Iran, her family and friends were harassed and discriminated against and, because of her religion, she was not allowed to attend university. Imagine being in an environment where your be-

liefs limit your ability to live life freely. In Halifax, every Friday morning there is a "support the troops" rally in Grand Parade, and many Saturday afternoons anti-war protests are held in the same location, both offering the opportunity to express opinions freely.

Social safety net. With more than half the world living in poverty, we are fortunate to be surrounded by services that can help us get on our feet again. Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Phoenix House and Feed Nova Scotia provide opportunities for money, food, shelter and retraining. No matter how you got to Halifax, your social status, or your needs, there are government and charitable organizations to

help you improve your standard of living.

Literacy. How many of us wouldn't be able to read this very article if we lived in a place where education was only available to the very rich, and access to literature was limited. While there is room to improve, we are fortunate that our help wanted signs don't need to include "must be literate."

This holiday season when you are thankful for being reunited with friends and family, take some time to be thankful for the wonderful country you live in, where we are safe, free, looked after and educated.

Christina Biluk is Director of Engagement for FUSION Halifax. Visit FUSIONHalifax.ca to find out how to get involved in shaping our city.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Did a sudden craving for perogies lead to prorogue?

I'm sure many of us did not know there was such a word as "prorogue." We all learned something new with this coalition agreement.

While we were discussing the newly discovered word "prorogue," somebody said it sounds like "pierogi/perogie."

That was that. We got a sudden craving for perogies — we decided to prorogue our session and go for a perogie break. I thought that was funny.

ANANT NAGPUR, OTTAWA

Dion offers 'priceless' moment in Canadian politics

I'm sorry the Liberal party is getting rid of Stéphane Dion. I'm going to miss this entertaining Inspector Clouseau of Canadian politics.

During the most important TV address of his life to ask the Canadian people to make him the prime minister, Dion had a book behind his right shoulder with titled Hot Air.

It was priceless.

CHRIS ROBERTSON,
STONEY CREEK, ONT.

Sky isn't the limit for product of baby boom generation

Re: Blame the Boomers (Dec. 3)

I think we've taken a very generalized approach to this generational argument.

Being a product of the baby boom generation, it's certainly difficult not to be a little jaded. I have witnessed my parents work their lives away, push their stress and relationship levels to incredible limits, and pretend to be content with just five weeks vacation at the age of 50.

We're a generation that was told the sky is the limit. It didn't take me long to realize that was all a lie.

PETER REYNOLDS,
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

Sullivan column turns out to be a thorny issue

Re: Let's Retire The Queen (Dec. 10)

Perhaps Mr. Sullivan should just move south to the United States and ignore hundreds of years of shared history and a place in the Commonwealth of Nations if he finds the Queen to be such a thorn in his side.

TOM POKORNY, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Experts gain insight from rats with hearing defects

Scientists have managed to train rats with hearing defects to pick out sounds from background noise, giving a possible solution to hearing-impaired children with difficulties in learning language. **REUTERS**

World/Business

Russian police quell protests

Kremlin protests over economy blocked, 150 detained

Police yesterday blocked Kremlin opponents from holding unlicensed marches in Russia's two main cities over the economic crisis, witnesses said, and detained more than 150 activists.

Marches of discontent have become a trademark protest by a coalition of small opposition groups from liberals to communists led by former world chess champion Garry Kasparov and writer Eduard Limonov, the head of outlawed National-Bolshevik party.

Witnesses said that police trucks sealed off two squares in central Moscow, where the Other Russia coalition wanted to start its march.

Police cordons prevented a handful of opposition supporters from entering the squares.

Police detained two dozen elderly Soviet offi-



People wear face masks with the word "censorship" during a protest in St. Petersburg yesterday.

cers at Pushkinskaya square and several opposition activists, including Limonov, at Triumphalnaya Square two kms away.

Fewer than 500 protest-

ers later turned up at the Chernyshevsky Square chanting: "No to police state!" and "Authorities, answer for the crisis!" The rally lasted for an hour

and ended peacefully.

Russian news agencies said more than 150 activists were detained in Moscow and St Petersburg altogether. **REUTERS**

Business

Autoparts makers on razor's edge

Shares of Canadian autoparts makers have taken a beating due to the decline in the U.S. auto sector, but the companies will face a much harsher reality if one or more of the Detroit Three is allowed to fail.

Parts companies already run on razor-thin margins, and a bankruptcy of one of the big automakers would mean suppliers would not be paid. That would lead to a catastrophic chain reaction that would ripple through the industry, said Linda Hasenfratz, president and chief executive of Linamar Corp.

"You are looking at shutting down the entire automotive industry in North America," she said. More than 65 per cent of

suppliers to Ford, GM and Chrysler also supply Toyota Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., so even the off-shore-based manufacturers would be hard hit.

Worries of a bankruptcy of one or all of the Detroit Three are reflected in Linamar's share price, which is

down 79 per cent since the beginning of the year. At \$4.20, it's on the verge of being removed from the S&P/TSX composite in-

"You are looking at shutting down the entire automotive industry in North America."

Linda Hasenfratz

dex

No Canadian autoparts manufacturer has escaped seeing its stock being clobbered this year. Magna International Inc. is down 56 per cent at \$35.76, and Martinrea International Inc. is down 84 per cent at \$1.94. **REUTERS**

Greek gov't under fire

UNREST A week of violence in Greece has taken its toll on the fragile conservative government, with opinion polls showing yesterday that many think authorities mishandled the worst rioting in decades.

The Dec. 6 killing of a 15-year-old boy by police unleashed a wave of unrest by thousands of students and anarchists across the country, feeding on growing anger over political scandals and the impact of a global recession on Greece's economy.

While the violence has generally subsided in the past few days, small groups of hooded youngsters hurling fire bombs are still rampaging in the capital, fighting running battles with riot police. **REUTERS**

Iraqi reporter hurls shoes at Bush

An Iraqi reporter called visiting U.S. President George W. Bush a "dog" in Arabic yesterday and threw his shoes at him during a news conference in Baghdad.

Iraqi security officers and U.S. secret service agents leapt at the man and dragged him struggling and screaming out of the room where Bush was giving a news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

The shoes missed their target about four and a half metres away. One sailed over Bush's head as he stood next to Maliki and smacked into the wall behind him. Bush smiled un-

comfortably and Maliki looked strained.

"It doesn't bother me," Bush said.

He urged everyone to calm down as a ruckus broke out in the conference room.

When asked about the incident shortly after, Bush made light of it.

"I didn't feel the least threatened by it," he said.

Other Iraqi journalists apologized on behalf of their colleague, a television journalist.

Bush arrived in Baghdad earlier yesterday on a farewell visit before he leaves office in January.

The U.S.-led invasion in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein triggered years of sectarian bloodshed.

The U.S. insurgency in Iraq led to the killing tens of thousands. **REUTERS**

To Afghanistan

- Moving from one war zone to another, Bush flew secretly from Baghdad to Kabul, landing under cover of darkness for talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and meetings with U.S. troops spearheading the fight against a resurgent Taliban.
- Bush made assurances that the United States will stand by the war-torn country despite a transition of power at the White House.
- After Air Force One touched down under heavy security, Bush strode across the tarmac and into a giant tent where hundreds of troops greeted him with raucous cheers as he thanked them for their service.

No word on auto bailout 'for a while': White House

AID The White House said it did not expect any announcement on an auto industry rescue plan before President George W. Bush returns to the United States from an unannounced trip to Iraq.

"I just don't expect anything for a while," White

House spokeswoman Dana Perino said, responding to a question on whether an announcement would be made during Bush's trip on whether the administration would tap a \$700-billion US financial-industry bailout fund to aid ailing automakers. **REUTERS**

U.S. real estate market to start recovery by spring: Zell

PROPERTY A revival in the U.S. real estate market, key to a recovery in the world economy, should begin by next spring, property mogul Sam Zell told an Israeli business conference yesterday.

"I believe ... we will see the first signs of equilibrium in the housing market in the spring of 2009, and I will expect by spring 2010 the housing market in the U.S. will look a lot better," Zell said.

Zell said that with the U.S. population continuing to grow and with fewer than 600,000 building

starts in 2008, over a million fewer than in each of the past 10 years, demand for houses would soon rise.

He added that after the U.S. housing market begins to stabilize over the next 12 months, growth would return to other markets. **REUTERS**

Background

- Zell is the owner of Tribune Co., publisher of the Chicago Tribune and Los Angeles Times, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week.

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT Australia yesterday committed to start the most sweeping carbon trade scheme outside Europe in mid-2010, as planned, despite business calls for a delay due to the global financial crisis. Climate Change Minister Penny Wong also said Australia would cut

greenhouse gas emissions by between five and 15 per cent by 2020, based on the year 2000 levels, to give Australia flexibility in global talks for emissions cuts beyond 2012.

INJURIES Dozens of people in Hong Kong were hurt after two bottles of an acidic liquid were

dropped from a building into a busy commercial district on Saturday. Police are investigating whether the incident was accidental.

SCANDAL Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich will not resign today, but pressure to do so continued to grow on the

governor to step aside.

GAZA Hamas's leader in exile was quoted as saying yesterday it would not renew a six-month-old truce with Israel in Gaza when it expires this week, raising the prospect of increased cross-border fighting. **REUTERS**

Going Green

Energy-saving tips

With government rebates for programmable thermostats, you could save almost a \$100 per year on heating costs, according to Direct Energy. And don't forget your furnace — an annual maintenance and cleaning can extend the life of a furnace by several years and prevent untimely breakdowns this holiday season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONews.CA

The trouble with Alberta's tarsands

ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola



If you want to be scared, you don't need to watch a horror movie or read the latest Stephen King best-seller.

Real terror can be found by simply firing up Google Earth. By mousing over and zooming in, you can see what Alberta's tarsands look like from space.

It is not a pretty sight. In fact, it's scary — and for good reason.

A recent book by celebrated journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent* (published by Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation), explores what these grey spots on Google Earth mean to Canada's environment and economy. It's an important book, one that every Canadian should read to find out how the world's largest energy project will affect us.

The scale of the Alberta tarsands project is unprecedented in Canadian history. Alberta's "blue-eyed sheiks," as the oil-industry elite are known, stand to make billions of dollars from carving up northern Alberta in order to meet U.S. demand for oil. But these dollars pale in comparison to the environmental value that is being squandered at the expense of petro dollars.

The main tarsands deposits are at three sites in Alberta: Peace River, Cold Lake and Athabasca. The Athabasca region contains the largest deposit of crude bitumen in the world.

All this bitumen, a complex mixture of molecules from prehistoric life, is a geological miracle with which Canada has been blessed. But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

It's estimated that two

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tonnes of earth must be excavated to produce one barrel of thick tar-like bitumen. And it requires as much as three barrels of fresh water from the

Athabasca River to make one barrel of bitumen. It also takes a huge amount of energy to extract the oil from the sands.

Now think about this:

Each day Canada exports one million barrels of bitumen to the United States.

In the media, we hear that tarsands will provide oil companies with

tremendous profits in the future, but there's been very little discussion about what happens next. Even hardened energy experts agree that relying on oil-

But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

soaked sand to meet North America's energy needs means that we're nearing the end of the cheap-oil era.

We know our lifestyles must change. We know that burning fossil fuels such as oil and gas creates smog that harms our health and creates global warming. We know that global warming poses an incredible threat to humanity.

With all the money being made from the tarsands, very little of it seems to be reinvested in renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal sources. If anything, we could be investing this money in low-carbon projects so we won't have to pull every bit of bitumen from the ground.

When my children were younger, they'd often ask me about the bogeyman — a mythical evil spirit who would lie in wait under their beds when the lights went out. But maybe the bogeyman isn't some scary creature. Maybe the bogeyman is simply a man in a suit trying to satisfy his shareholders, make a profit, and cosy up to federal politicians so he can continue doing his work without having to answer to his environmental crimes.

Or maybe there's something more frightening to consider. Perhaps the bogeyman is us — the public that places the short-term economic value of the tarsands above the priceless value of our environment and our health.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.david.suzuki.org.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Nesbitt captures gold

Canada's Christine Nesbitt won the women's 1,000-metre yesterday at a World Cup long-track speedskating meet in Japan. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports

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Junior roster coming today

HOCKEY Hockey Canada will announce its roster today for the world junior championship after wrapping up a three-day selection camp last night in Ottawa.

John Tavares, Jamie Benn and Tyler Ennis were the leading scorers in three intra-squad scrimmages.

Tavares, an Oakville, Ont., native who helped Canada win gold at last year's world junior championship, piled up four goals and an assist.

Benn, a Dallas Stars draft choice, had three goals and an assist, while Tyler Ennis, a Buffalo Sabres first-rounder, had a goal and four assists.

Brett Sonne and Jordan Eberle had two goals and an assist each.

Head coach Pat Quinn will announce the roster today at 11:15 a.m. Eastern at a press conference at SensPlex in Kanata, Ont.

Thirty-eight players were invited to the selection camp, and 22 will be named to the team. The world junior starts Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa. Canada has won four consecutive gold medals at the event.

MATTHEW WUEST
/METRO HALIFAX

White to stick with Junior A

HOCKEY Former Halifax Mooseheads forward Andrew White will play junior A for the rest of the season. The 20-year-old has signed with the Miramichi Timberwolves after starting the campaign in the university ranks with the Saint Mary's Huskies. White had 22 goals with Halifax last season.

Vrana AHL-bound after waivers

HOCKEY Former Halifax Mooseheads captain Petr Vrana cleared waivers on the weekend and the New Jersey Devils have shipped him to the Lowell Devils of the American Hockey League. Vrana, 23, had one goal in 16 games with New Jersey after finally cracking the NHL roster in October. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Moose get needed break

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads will finally get a chance to kick their feet up and relax over the next two weeks.

The Mooseheads, who lost 6-2 to the Moncton Wildcats on Saturday, play just once in a 13-day stretch, and get a healthy six-day break from Dec. 20 to Boxing Day. Head coach Cam Russell said it will be a welcome getaway.

"You're going seven days a week most weeks, and the players are only getting away from the game two or three days a month," he said. "It's good to have a mental and physical break at this time of year. Guys have been here since August and they're all looking forward to seeing family and friends."

Saturday marked Halifax's last home game until Dec. 30. Rookies Alexis Piette and Charles Bety scored in the loss, but the Wildcats blew open a 2-2 game with a four-goal third period. Rookie goaltender



Mooseheads goalie Mathieu Corbeil makes a pad save on Moncton Wildcats forward Ted Stephens during the first period of Saturday's QMJHL game at the Metro Centre. The Wildcats scored four times in the third to beat the Mooseheads 6-2.

Mathieu Corbeil turned aside 27 shots, but only faced eight shots in the third-period letdown.

The Mooseheads' only game in the next two weeks is Friday on the road against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.

"We'll have a few days to work on some more systems and prepare for that last game against Cape Breton," Russell said.

Russell said Mark Yetman (groin), Eric Louis-Seize (shoulder) and Matt Boland (shoulder) are still bothered

by injuries but that the rest of the team is basically healthy. The Mooseheads (10-23-2) slipped closer to the basement, 17th out of 18 teams in the QMJHL. The Val-d'Or Foreurs bring up the rear, four points behind the Herd.

Coach gives Rainmen an early Christmas present

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

PBL Rick Lewis must have felt the spirit of Christmas giving yesterday, because he gave his Halifax Rainmen a rare gift.

The Rainmen head coach rewarded his players their first day off since training camp started on Dec. 2, a welcome reprieve from 12 days of non-stop strength and conditioning work.

"The players went to

some minor basketball games today — they were pretty happy about it," Lewis said. "They're starting to get their legs and explosiveness back and they're starting to look good. They'll be fresh (on Monday)."

The Rainmen played an intra-squad game on Saturday in Wolfville. The white side, led by returning Rainmen Eric Crookshank (44 points), Brian Silverhorn (24 points) and Jimmy Twyman (seven points),

beat the blue side 130-125. David Bailey added 32 for the whites, while Cordell Jeanty (36 points) and Rob Sanders (32 points) paced the blues.

"I didn't have anybody contesting drives to the basket and fast breaks on the defensive end," Lewis explained. "We wanted to make sure we didn't have any injuries."

Shooting guard Glen

Dandridge joined the team late Saturday night, giving the Rainmen 11 players. The Rainmen are looking for a 12th player "with some meat on him, in the 6-foot-9 to 7-foot, 250- to 260-pound range," Lewis said.

The Rainmen practise all week, then hit the road to open the pre-season against the Quebec City Kebs on Sunday.

Avery done in Dallas

The Dallas Stars have decided that suspended forward Sean Avery will not return to the team.

The former Cole Harbour resident was suspended by the NHL for six games, without pay, earlier this month for crude comments he made to members of the media regarding his ex-girlfriends dating other hockey players.

The 28-year-old antagonist was eligible to return to the club yesterday after the six-game ban expired, but the club and representatives for Avery determined it was not possible for the player to rejoin his teammates.

"Sean needs to focus on his own well-being while the Stars hockey team must focus on playing hockey and competing for a playoff spot," said Stars co-general manager Brett Hull.

Avery, who agreed to seek professional anger-management treatment after the incident, was in the first year of a four-year, \$15.5-million US deal.

The Stars have said they will not challenge the contract under the conduct clause and will instead try to help Avery find another home in hockey.

"We do care about Sean and want what is best for him," said Hull. "We've agreed to do what we can to help find him a place to play hockey once he addresses his personal issues." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Sean Avery

SCOREBOARD			
NFL	QMJHL	TONIGHT'S GAMES	
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Atlanta 13 Tampa Bay 10 (OT) Carolina 30 Denver 10 Cincinnati 20 Washington 13 Houston 13 Tennessee 12 Indianapolis 31 Detroit 21 Jacksonville 20 Green Bay 16 Miami 14 San Francisco 9 Minnesota 35 Arizona 14 New England 49 Oakland 26 N.Y. Jets 31 Buffalo 27 Pittsburgh 13 Baltimore 9 San Diego 22 Kansas City 21 Seattle 23 St. Louis 20 N.Y. Giants at Dallas THURSDAY'S RESULT Chicago 27 New Orleans 24 (OT) TONIGHT'S GAME Cleveland at Philadelphia	YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Cape Breton 3 Moncton 0 Drummondville 8 Rouyn-Noranda 4 Lewiston 3 Val-d'Or 1 Montreal 6 Chicoutimi 4 Rimouski 9 Baie-Comeau 0 Saint John 3 P.E.I. 2 (SO) Victoriaville 3 Gatineau 2 (SO) WEDNESDAY'S GAMES Moncton at Cape Breton P.E.I. at Quebec NHL YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Chicago 3 Columbus 1 Minnesota at Anaheim Florida at Vancouver	NBA YESTERDAY'S RESULTS New Orleans 99 Toronto 91 Memphis 102 Miami 86 Oklahoma City at San Antonio Minnesota at L.A. Lakers TONIGHT'S GAMES Charlotte at Atlanta Indiana at Washington New Jersey at Toronto Utah at Boston Milwaukee at Miami Denver at Dallas New York at Phoenix Minnesota at Sacramento Orlando at Golden State	

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Matt Cassel of the New England Patriots threw for 218 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in a 49-26 win over the Oakland Raiders yesterday. Cassel's father died last Monday.

Grieving Cassel leads Patriots

NFL ROUNDUP

Matt Cassel threw for 218 yards and four touchdowns on a rainy, muddy day, as the New England Patriots kept pace atop a crowded AFC East with a 49-26 rout of the Oakland Raiders yesterday.

With the win, the Patriots (9-5) remain in a three-way tie for first place in their division with the Dolphins and Jets. Miami notched a 14-9 win over San Francisco, while New York came back to beat Buffalo, 31-27, on a late defensive touchdown.

Cassel completed 18-of-30 passes and also threw an interception, and Randy Moss caught five passes for 67 yards and two touchdowns in his first game against the Raiders since being traded from Oakland following the 2006 season.

TEXANS 13, TITANS 12

Matt Schaub threw for 284 yards and one touchdown to Andre Johnson, who had 207 yards receiving, as the Houston Texans felled the Tennessee Titans, 13-12.

Johnson, who had 11 catches, became the first 200-yard receiver in Texans history, while Schaub completed 23-of-39 passes with no interceptions. Steve Slaton ran for 100 yards on 24 carries, and is the only back to reach the 100-yard mark against the Titans this season, as Houston (7-7) recorded its fourth consecutive win.

The Titans, who had a two-game win streak snapped, could have locked up home-field advantage with a win combined with a Pittsburgh loss to the Ravens later yesterday.

But the Steelers beat Baltimore and improved to 11-3, adding a layer of importance when the clubs meet next Sunday in Tennessee.

N.Y. JETS 31, BILLS 27

Shaun Ellis had an 11-yard fumble return for a touchdown with 1:54 left that propelled the Jets to a 31-27 win over the Buffalo Bills, as New York kept pace in the AFC East race.

The Jets (9-5) remained tied for the division lead with Miami, which beat San Francisco, 14-9, on Sunday. The two teams, along with New England, entered Sunday tied for first in the AFC East. The Patriots beat Oakland later Sunday to keep it a three-team race.

J.P. Losman started for Buffalo (6-8) for the second straight week in place of Trent Edwards, who is dealing with a groin injury, and threw for 148 yards and one score on 24-of-39 passing. But his fumble led to Ellis' TD and he threw an interception shortly thereafter — one of three picks during the contest — to help spoil the Bills' chances.

DOLPHINS 14, 49ERS 9

Chad Pennington threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes and the Miami defence came up big when it had to in the second half, as the Dolphins maintained a share of first place in the AFC East with a 14-9 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Miami's defence has not surrendered a touchdown in the three games since a 48-28 drubbing at the hands of New England on Nov. 23.

STEELERS 13, RAVENS 9

Ben Roethlisberger's four-yard toss to Santonio Holmes with 43 seconds remaining proved to be the only touchdown of the game, as the Pittsburgh Steelers clinched the AFC North Division and a first-round bye in the playoffs with a 13-9 comeback victory over the Baltimore Ravens in a hard-hitting defensive battle.

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New Brunswick economic stimulus plan focuses on college investments

The New Brunswick government rolled out the first in a series of new capital investments intended to stimulate the economy. Post Secondary Education is the focus of significant investments, including a \$35-million community college in Edmundston and nearly \$45-million worth of community college facilities in Saint John. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Keeping income

Post-secondary students in Ontario on social assistance will get to keep any employment income they earn, according to the provincial government's new anti-poverty strategy released last week. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Party on Wayne Co., party on Garth Ltd.

Despite economic downturn and mounting losses, holiday cheer prevails at some companies

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada



While the economic outlook this festive season might be frightful, most office holiday parties will still be delightful according to a recent poll.

In the poll conducted by Harris/Decima for Workopolis, an online career-solutions company, seven out of 10 holiday party decision-makers surveyed in Canada said they will spend the same amount on festivities as they have in past years.

Only 11 per cent of those decision makers said they'll be cancelling the party altogether.

Pat Sullivan, president of Workopolis, said given the current economy, they were surprised to find that 68 per cent of employers said they would not be cutting back on party costs at all.

"Although the economic conditions are difficult, I think we still want to

thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done," Sullivan said.

To maintain company morale during tough economic times, Sullivan said, a festive holiday party might be even more crucial this year than ever before.

While 53 per cent of party organizers said they have not considered any cost-cutting measures, 17 per cent said they plan to cut out some of the holiday cheer: One in five said they would plan for less expensive entertainment or venues; 15 per cent said they would hold the party on company premises to cut costs; 13 per cent said they would hold the party on a weeknight rather than the weekend; 12 per cent said they would invite employees only and not include significant others; and nine per cent said they would hold the party during the day rather than the evening.

And

"I think we still want to thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done."

Workopolis President Pat Sullivan

as for employees thoughts on the holiday party being scaled back, 62 per cent said they would understand.

Regardless of the economic landscape, however, a trend that seems to

be emerging is for companies not to offer an office holiday party at all.

General Motors, for example, told Metro they did away with the annual event long before the current economic downturn.

"That's something we haven't done on a broad scale for a number of years," said Patty Faith, manager of media relations for General Motors Canada.

The company chooses to spend its time and money on community charities instead, she said.

As for Workopolis itself, they're holding their holiday festivities in January.

"The timing coincides

with our sales conference, so that employees from our eight offices across the country have the opportunity to see each other and celebrate the year's successes," Sullivan said.

He added that the company will spend about the same as last year on their holiday celebration.

The Workopolis poll, conducted between Nov. 6 and 10, surveyed a sample of 617 working Canadians.

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While 53 per cent of party organizers said they have not considered any cost-cutting measures, 17 per cent said they plan to cut out some of the holiday cheer, and one in five said they would plan for less expensive entertainment.

From Space Invaders to NASA

OddJobs

Diane Peters



Recently, Arn Hyndman drove from Toronto to Ottawa with a work colleague for a meeting. As research and development technologists with Nortel Networks (the company calls them architects), the two didn't chat about the company's stock price or office gossip, they riffed on ideas.

"We were just shooting the breeze. We're inspired by challenges that we see ourselves in the world around us," Hyndman says. They came up with 10 different ideas for possible new technology projects.

It isn't just idle talk. They'll eventually get to make some of these ideas happen.

Hyndman, who's now 37, began inventing technology a young teen on Vancouver Island. His parents declared video games like Space Invaders off limits so, using the family's rudimentary computer, Hyndman designed his own version of the popular game.

It wasn't perfect, but it

kept him and his friends amused for awhile. He kept writing programs and then studied computer science at the University of British Columbia. He was eventually hired as a junior developer at Nortel in Ottawa. The company helped finance his masters in software engineering (he minored in human computer interaction) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

There, he and his classmates solved a problem for NASA: There was a six-second delay between moving the joystick of the remote control for the lunar rover and the thing actually moving, so astronauts would over-steer and even crash it.

The Lowdown

Salary: \$100,00 to \$200,000

Education: A degree in computer science or computer engineering

Worst part of the job: "About 30 per cent of the way into a project, you get 90 per cent of the idea working. Then there's a long curve of polishing and drudgery."

Hyndman helped invent a new monitor that would predict where the rover would go in real time.

Back at Nortel, Hyndman went on to get patents for various inventions: One that helps compatibility between network devices and their management system, and another that enables you to ID yourself while using a wireless device so you can login or make purchases.

Currently, he's chief architect on a project called web.alive. It will allow people to talk on the web using live voice and 3-D avatars. An alternative to video conferencing, its



When his parents said he couldn't play Space Invaders, Arn Hyndman programmed his own version of the game.

main use will be for virtual business meetings.

Hyndman spends his days working on the project but during coffee breaks and over lunch and in the hallways, he chats with other architects — there are about 20 at Nor-

tel — about technology problems and possible solutions for fixing them.

"We just throw around ideas all the time."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Dark Knight sets DVD record
The Dark Knight has set a new record after DVD sales soared to nearly 3 million in the U.S., Canada and Britain — three days after its release Tuesday. The Batman film has so far grossed more than \$996 million US worldwide. [IMDB.COM](#)

Entertainment



Oscar host
Actor Hugh Jackman will be the host of the 2009 Academy Awards, organizers have announced.
BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

The renaissance man

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

It's taken Q-Tip nine years to release *The Renaissance*, the follow up to his 1999 solo debut *Amplified*.

"I haven't been sitting around doing nothing, I promise," says the Queens, New York rapper best known as one-third of eternally cool, legendary '90s hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest. "I'm always in the studio. Always."

The reason we haven't heard the fruits of this recording labour is, as Tip nonchalantly puts it, he's been "going through a couple of things with record labels." More specifically, Arista shelved his original sophomore effort Kamaal

the Abstract, claiming it was too obscure and not commercial enough. But that was the past, and last month, the man who was born Jonathan Davis finally had a new product to push.

"I was a little bit nervous," admits the 37-year-old about coming out with an album after almost a decade. "But I liked (the music) and I feel like people trust me for my taste."

His taste has lately been veering to older greats such as Stevie Wonder, Prince, Miles Davis and The Clash, rather than what's rotating on the radio.

As a result, *The Renaissance*, a mix of his signature smooth nasal flow over jazzy beats and live instruments is a refreshing throwback to a purer time

in hip hop. It's mellow, but with enough boom bat to get your head bobbing.

The lyrics, however — dealing with war, the economy and even in-

cluding excerpts taken from one of Barack Obama's speeches — are very now. He says it's serendipitous that *The Renaissance*, was released on the same day Obama was elected president.

"We have a socio-political renaissance with this new presi-

dent, and I feel like we're in the middle of an artistic renaissance," Tip excitedly rattles off his theory. "People are looking for more value in their music, in literature, in film, theater, just all across, people are looking for taste. And the reason why is because the Internet has leveled the playing field, and shown everybody the different permutations of things. And because of that, people's tastes are starting to get better, cooler and they're finding interesting things. It's a great time," he says coming up for air. "And I'm just happy to be able to offer this now."

The Renaissance is the follow up to Q-Tip's solo debut *Amplified*.

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

weekend box office

- The Day the Earth Stood Still:** \$31 million US
- Four Christmases:** \$13.3 million
- Twilight:** \$8 million
- Bolt:** \$7.5 million
- Australia:** \$4.3 million
- Quantum of Solace:** \$3.8 million
- Nothing Like the Holiday:** \$3.5 million
- Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** \$3.3 million
- Milk:** \$2.6 million
- Transporter 3:** \$2.3 million

REUTERS

In brief

MUSIC Metallica, Pearl Jam and My Morning Jacket are among the artists featured on Live From Bonnaroo 2008, due out January on DVD.

REUTERS

On the web

Book Picks:

- For this week's book picks on Frozen Tracks by Åke Edwardson, The Heretic Queen by Michelle Moran and Doors Open by Ian Rankin visit metronews.ca/entertainment.

IntelleVision



Rick McGinnis
Read it at metronews.ca

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

GlobalStyle



Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/15/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Chronicle	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		20/20 (N)		
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	Atlantis
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch-C'mas	Frosty	The Border (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Mr. Bean (SC)	Antarctique	La Petite vie	La Petite Séduction (N) (SC)	Hauts		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Dernières Vacances ★★ (2006, Comédie)	Queen Latifah.		Deux filles à Noël (N)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)	My Own Worst Enemy		Heroes "Duality" (N)		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	EastLink Mag.	Fishing	Harv's Sportsland (Live)	Lights	Harv's Sportsland		EastLink Television	
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Heroes "Duality" (N)		Worst Enemy
news	29	29	29	NW	Business	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Royal Riders
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Viewer Favorites			Viewer Favorites		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Yanni Voices		Great Performances		
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Latulippe et cie		Noël		Pushing Daisies (SC)		110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Berman's Call	Money Talks	C-Suite Survey	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54	GOLF	U.S. Senior Open Highlights	U.S. Women's Open Highlights	School of Golf	Golf Central		Year in Review (Part 1 of 2)		Golf Videos
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports	World Combat League	The Ultimate Fighter					Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Score Update	Game On	RaceNight			(10:15) WWE Monday Night Raw		
	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Auctions
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football	Cleveland Browns at Philadelphia Eagles.		
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	The Nuttiest Nutcracker	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Daniel Cook	Night Grdn	Bears Saved	Max & Ruby	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh (2008, Comedy)	Drake Bell.	Scrooged ★★ (1988, Comedy)	Bill Murray.				Mystery Hnt.
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files Arsonist.	Intervention	Intervention "Tom"		Intervention "Janet" (N)			Manhunters
	70	70	70	APTN	News	Notre Peuple "Pow Wow"	La Cité	Mishkuenita	Movie			
family	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Three Can Play That Game (2008, Romance-Comedy)					Keyshia Cole
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal "Phoenix"	Desperate Housewives	And They Danced		White Boots	Rumpelzwitter		Dance Atlantic
	25	25	25	CMT	Dedicated "Christmas" (N)	Donner Down	The Gift	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham
	153	153	153	COURT	W-FIVE	The Investigators	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Legal Briefs			Investigators
	38	38	38	DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Daily Planet (N)	MythBusters Ninjas.	Dirty Jobs			Worst Driver
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.
	46	46	46	HIST	Underworld Histories	NCIS "Under Covers"	Battle 360			Underworld Histories		NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Live in the Lot: Fall Out Boy	MuchTopTens		On Set: T.I.
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com	Revival	Listed	Where You At	Back In		Don't Forget
	201	201	201	M1	(6) Children of Men	Sanctuary "Warriors"	Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	True Blood		Brotherhood
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 7	Ed's Up	Videos	Pilot Guides	Mantracker			Departures
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	A Walk to Remember ★★ (2002, Romance)	Shane West.		Cheers
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:40) The Rhino Brothers (2001)		(8:20) The Boys Club (1997, Drama)		Scarface ★★ (1983, Crime Drama)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Prime Suspect 7	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane	Kenny-Spenney	Rent-A-Goalie		Name Is Earl
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted "Jeremy"	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn-Style
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1	Lost	Star Trek "Shore Leave"		Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains			Eureka
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Scream Queens		Tonight Show
	97	98	98	STAR	Star Treatment	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	In Fashion	TMZ (N)	etalk		Wealth Hunters
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear	Little People	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (N)			Planet Soap
	56	34	34	TROP	News Show	News Show	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men	What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Partir autre
	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Des racines et des ailes "Le Mont St-Michel"			
	28	28	28	V	Just Cause	Murder, She Wrote	Prime Minister	May to Dec	I'll Be Home for Christmas ★ (1998)			Truth, Duty
251	97	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy	Commander In Chief		The West Wing			
	22	22	22	W	(6) The Road to Christmas	Friends	Will & Grace	what's cooking	Under the Mistletoe (2006, Drama)			
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		WGN News

critics'corner

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
You have to love the little happy dog wearing reindeer antlers — you have to! If you don't, you're a Grinch. This 1966 Dr. Seuss animated classic teaches the value of giving, caring and having a nonmaterialistic Christmas. Boris Karloff's rich voice just adds to the feeling of being surrounded by a warm blanket this time of year. 8 PM on CBC



Frosty the Snowman
Jackie Vernon provides the voice of Frosty, the legendary snowman with a corn cob pipe and a button nose. Frosty comes to life when a magician's hat lands on his head. With the help of some children, he heads for the North Pole before he melts. But he is pursued by the magician, who wants his hat back. Billy De Wolfe supplies the voice of the magician, and Jimmy Durante narrates the tale. 8:30 PM on CBC

Scrooged
Bill Murray portrays Ebenezer Scrooge — called Frank Cross here — in another adaptation of the Charles Dickens tale. This 1988 version follows the story of a greedy TV executive who figures since he hates Christmas, no one else should enjoy it. But his outlook is changed after a visit from three ghosts on Christmas Eve. Directed by Richard Donner, the movie also stars Karen Allen, John Forsythe, Carol Kane and Alfre Woodard. 9 PM on YTV



Rashad speaking for Jenny Craig
Phylicia Rashad, who is best known for her role as Clair Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, is the latest actress to be tapped as a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Tara's in rehab

HEALTH Actress Tara Reid is in rehab, *People.com* reports.

"Tara Reid has checked herself into Promises Treatment Center. We appreciate your respect to her and her family's privacy at this time," the actress' rep Jack Ketsoyan told *People*.

Ketsoyan would not reveal what Reid, 33, is being treated for.

A friend of Reid says she headed to the treatment facility on Tuesday.

"Her friends and family are supportive of her decision," said the friend. "She checked in herself — it was her decision." It is un-

clear if Reid will spend the holidays at Promises.

In an interview in October, Reid told *People* she was a "social drinker" who enjoyed an occasional glass of wine with friends.

Asked if she was ever tempted to fall back into old habits, Reid said: "No. I've done it. Trust me. I've done enough for a lifetime of everything. I've had a great time. I partyed. I had fun. I ate and drank whatever. I dated a million guys, but I'm so happy with where I'm at right now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kanye the intern?

FASHION Kanye West is to embark on a fashion internship in London, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

The rapper is reportedly so determined to carve out a successful career designing clothes he is willing to start from the bottom and

has been writing to fashion houses in Europe

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



— including Louis Vuitton on London's Bond Street — asking for experience.

"I'm going to go and take an internship and just do something that's like completely normal, and just rap at the weekends or something," West says.

Designer Raf Simons confirmed West had approached him about an internship, but admitted he was unsure whether to take him on.

"I was blown away from the planet when he told me. I know he's very serious about this ... But how can I imagine him being my intern? It's a very extreme situation," Simons says.

West is working on his Pastelle clothing line, which is set to debut next year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Federline praises Spears

PARENTING Kevin Federline has praised his ex-wife Britney Spears' parenting skills, insisting the singer is a "great" mom, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

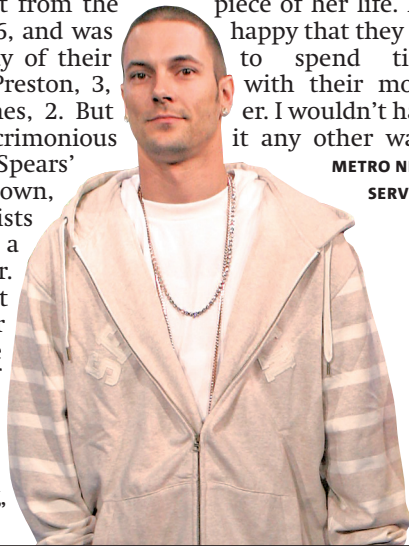
Federline split from the pop star in 2006, and was awarded custody of their children Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2. But despite their acrimonious breakup and Spears' public meltdown, Federline insists the Spears is a brilliant mother.

"I haven't been around her too much in the last couple of years but other than that, she's a great mother. Really hands-on with the kids,"

he tells *Hello* magazine.

"She spends a lot of time with them. She loves to play with them a lot. She really cares about them and I know they're a big piece of her life. I'm happy that they get to spend time with their mother. I wouldn't have it any other way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Walsh's whirlwind romance over

DIVORCE Actress Kate Walsh and her husband, Alex Young, are divorcing, *imdb.com* reports.

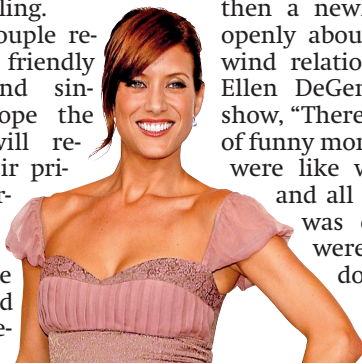
According to court papers obtained by *People*, Young, 37, petitioned for a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences in his Nov. 22 filing.

"The couple remain on friendly terms and sincerely hope the media will respect their privacy during this difficult time," the pair said in a statement.

The *Private Practice* star, 41, wed Young, a production co-president at 20th Century Fox, on Sept. 1, 2007, in the town of Ojai, just north of Los Angeles, after becoming engaged in May.

In October 2007, Walsh, then a newlywed, talked openly about their whirlwind relationship, telling *Ellen DeGeneres* on her show, "There was this kind of funny moment, after we were like we're married and all of the hoopla was over and we were like, 'What do we do now?'" other."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gwyn, Chris' union 'safe'

MARRIAGE Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's marriage is safe and strong, according to the Oscar winner's close pal, chef Mario Batali, *imdb.com* reports.

Paltrow has been spotted partying in the U.S. with her pop star friend Madonna, while Martin tours the U.K. with his band Coldplay, prompting rumours their five-year marriage is in trouble.

Reports last week even suggested the couple planned to spend Christmas together in London in a bid to save their relationship.

But Batali, who shot a TV cookery

show with Paltrow in Spain this summer, insists there's no truth to the rumours.

"Not true. I see them all the time. I don't think they're having problems," he tells *Ok!* magazine. Batali adds the pair's kids, Apple and Moses, help to keep their marriage strong.

"If you meet their kids, their kids are cool," he says. "Their kids have the fascination with new and open-eyed experiences. They're delightful. Which means they're being taken care of at home by their parents. That's the key. They're really stay-at-home parents in a way that only rock stars and Academy Award winning actors can be."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Carey's video 'perfect' proposal

ENGAGEMENT Pop star Mariah Carey forced her husband Nick Cannon to propose twice so she could capture the "perfect moment" on film, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Carey made her Cannon get down on one knee again, a day after his initial surprise proposal.

"The next day, he took me on a helicopter ride around the Empire State Building," she says. "He got down on one knee and proposed again — someone was filming us this time because I decided I wanted a record of this perfect moment."

The recording came as a change of heart for the star, who had initially decided to keep the intimate moment private.

When she first discovered the 15-carat diamond ring hidden in a candy wrapper, she ran to turn off a video camera so she could secretly celebrate.

"I feel like everything in my life is always on film and I wanted this moment to be private. And I was so happy that I cried," Carey says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Dane dismisses Knight rumours

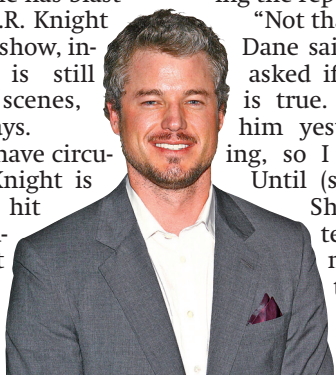
TELEVISION Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane has blasted reports T.R. Knight has quit the show, insisting he is still shooting scenes, *imdb.com* says.

Rumours have circulated that Knight is to leave the hit medical drama, but Dane is adamant he's heard nothing

from producers confirming the reports.

"Not that I know of," Dane said after being asked if the rumour is true. "I was with him yesterday working, so I don't know. Until (show creator) Shonda Rhimes tells me he's no longer on the show, he's there."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Johansson refutes quotes

PEOPLE Fans might have guessed that actor Ryan Reynolds had a romantic side, but not because his wife Scarlett Johansson said so, *E! News Online* reports.

A rep for the actress has lashed out at *Cosmopolitan's* U.K. edition, calling its January cover story on Johansson an "obvious attempt ... to gain monetarily by misinforming their readers."

Not only were marriage-related quotations attributed to Johansson "wholly fabricated," but Johansson "has at no point granted U.K. *Cosmopolitan* an interview, and she has nev-

er discussed her personal relationships with the publication," her rep said in a statement.

So where did the quotes come from?

Not Johansson, according to her camp.

"Ms. Johansson, who goes to great lengths to preserve an authentic representation of herself with respect to her fans and the media, is disappointed to see a seemingly reputable publication inexplicably publish a work of fiction at her expense," the statement continued. Legal action will be taken, her rep promised.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gossip Girl stars engaged: report

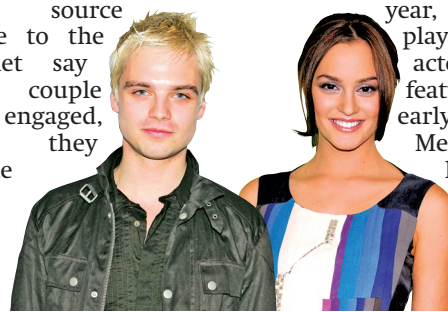
RELATIONSHIPS Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester and her beau, Sebastian Stan, are taking the next step, *PageSix.com* reports.

A source close to the starlet says the couple are engaged, and they made the an-

nouncement on their "secret" Facebook pages.

Meester and Stan have been dating since they met on the set of the show last year, when Stan played a character who was featured in two early episodes. Meester's rep had "no comment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES





For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20				
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37				38			
		39		40		41						
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		7	2	5
8	2		3	5			9	
						1		
			8					7
3	5		4		2		1	9
1					6			
		3						
	1			8	3		4	6
7	8	9		6				

Crossword across

- 1 Saxophone range
5 Nov. follower
8 Impale
12 Benefit
13 “— Yankee Doodle Dandy ...”
14 Ocean motion
15 Farmland measure
16 Ross and backup
18 Looseleaf-paper holder
20 Lucky dice rolls
21 Prison, in Portsmouth
23 Shriner’s cap
24 2007 comedy movie
28 Nary a soul
31 — out a living
- 32 Le Pew and Le Moko
34 Convent dweller
35 Catherine — -Jones
37 Quash
39 Tokyo’s old name
41 Actress Gilpin
42 Straying
45 Some hosiery
49 Imagined
51 Press
52 Map
53 Past
54 One billionth (Pref.)
55 Longings
56 Director Howard
57 Radiate

Crossword down

- 1 Common rhyme scheme
2 Places
3 Undecided
4 Nervous
5 Strips
6 Ostrich’s cousin
7 Uppercase
8 Spielberg or Bochco
9 Eastern or Pacific, e.g.
10 Mideast gulf
11 Harry’s first lady
17 Ump
19 O.K. Corral VIP
22 Drink, as a puppy might
24 “— you!”
25 Guitar’s island kin
26 Barrie boy
- 27 Trust
29 Greek consonants
30 Navy rank (Abbr.)
33 Agile
36 Tweaks
38 Angering
40 Yoko of music
42 Catch sight of
43 Hold the scepter
44 Despot
46 Exam format
47 Admonition to Nanette
48 Winter forecast
50 Id counterpart

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

P	A	R		D	O	C	S		S	A	K	E
I	D	I		E	X	I	T		C	L	O	G
P	A	P	A	B	E	A	R		O	L	I	O
S	M	A	R	T	Y			I	P	O		
				R	O	E		P	E	P	P	E
	A	L	T	A	R		F	E	Z		E	R
T	O	R	Y		C	O	D		B	R	I	E
O	D	A		W	A	X			C	A	M	E
P	I	P	P	I	N			V	O	L		
			A	N	A			A	R	M	A	D
B	R	A	N		P	U	P	P	Y	D	O	G
B	A	L	I		E	R	O	S		E	V	E
C	H	I	C		S	I	R	E		N	E	D

3	8	9	1	7	5	6	4	2
6	5	4	2	3	8	1	7	9
7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8	3
1	6	8	5	4	2	9	3	7
4	7	5	3	9	1	8	2	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	4	1	5
8	4	6	7	5	3	2	9	1
2	9	7	4	1	6	3	5	8
5	3	1	8	2	9	7	6	4

Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	
13-17 min	Scholar	
	21-25 min	Not bad
	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Raspberry Chicken Breasts

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 pounds/750 g)
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) flour
- 4 tsp (20 mL) sugar
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) raspberry vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken broth
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried tarragon
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water
- 1/2 pint (550 mL) raspberries

METHOD:

1. In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté 4 minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and

- cook 1 minute or until soft. Add sugar and cook 4 minutes or until sugar has melted and is amber in colour. Add vinegar and bring to a boil.
3. Add broth, tarragon and salt, and bring to a boil. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
4. Transfer chicken to dinner plates. Return sauce to a boil, whisk in cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute or until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in raspberries. Spoon sauce over chicken.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A banking issue unnerves a leader. Someone will spare your feelings. Don’t protect yourself from reality.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An optimistic person will give you hope. Your sincere commitment will impress a demanding man. Give your self-esteem a pep talk.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A plucky woman uncovers hidden pleasures. Take your time while running errands. A creative associate challenges your intelligence.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A big-hearted man doesn’t want to intimidate you. Being in the wrong place leads you to a troubled person. A crook tries to cheat someone.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Have a good excuse handy if you’re accused of being tricky. A dream makes you feel vague and unmotivated. Waste some time with fools.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A gossip queen gives an invitation. Reward yourself for your charitable acts. Trust your instincts with fascinating information.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It’s a good time for unusual solutions. An amusing person wants to meet you. A manager wants you to help to stabilize a situation.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love and money won’t come easily. A friend struggles with a decision. There’ll be laughter when you go in the wrong direction.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can value the advice offered by a rude person. Take steps to secure your financial position. A matter must be dealt with now.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Refuse to argue with a dishonest person. Be sensitive to a bully’s anxious state. A brilliant person will share a heavenly experience.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don’t reveal your identity to a mistrustful cyber-pal. A comical man chuckles when you chat. Someone rejects your wise advice.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There’s anger due to an older person’s deception. Be more aware of emotional undercurrents in public. Don’t go on a blind date yet.



TELL METRO READERS WHAT YOU THINK

NEW "COMMENT & VIEWS"

Whether you agree or disagree about anything you’ve read in Metro, we want to know. Send us your views and pick up Metro daily to find out what other Metro readers are saying.

Email your letters to halifaxletters@metronews.ca

metro
Do it daily.

This day in history

- DEC. 15, 1791: The United States Bill of Rights becomes law when ratified by the Virginia legislature.
- DEC. 15, 1960: Richard Paul Pavlick is arrested for attempting to blow up and assassinate the U.S. President-Elect, John F. Kennedy only four days earlier.
- DEC. 15, 1961: In Jerusalem, Adolph Eichmann is sentenced to death after being found guilty of 15 criminal charges, including charges of crimes against humanity.
- DEC. 15, 2005: The 2005 Atlantic Power Outage began, causing hundreds of thousands of people along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. to suffer power outages.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Give a puzzle hint for “color shade” (1)
2. Retain Little Bo Peep’s animals (1)
3. Sci-fi writer Verne reigns (1)
4. Off-the-wall footman (2)
5. Silver tree’s roosts for birds (2)
6. Crystal ball gazer monotony (3)
7. Wizard Harry’s housefly-hitting tools (2)

ANSWERS
1. BIRCHES PERCHES 2. KEEP SHEEP 3. JULES RULES 4. WACKY LACKY

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